

# Support Connecticut Farmers: Ban the Extreme and Unnecessary Confinement of Breeding Pigs

**Support a ban on gestation crates, H.B. 5416 (Section 2), which will:**

- 1) promote best practices that our local, Connecticut-based, sustainable farmers already follow, and**
- 2) protect our family farmers by preventing large scale factory farms from coming to Connecticut (which would push out our family farmers).**

Legislative Proposal: amendment to cruelty statutes (Title 53, Chapter 945) that would "prohibit confinement of sows during gestation in a manner that prevents them from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending their limbs".

*BILL STATUS: public hearing to be held on March 17, 2014*



Renowned animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin states, "Gestation crates are a real problem. Basically you're asking a sow to live in an airline seat... We've got to treat animals right, and gestation stalls have got to go."

## THE ISSUE

Due to the duration and severity of their confinement, pigs in gestation crates suffer among the worst abuse in all of industrial agribusiness. For several years, they are confined to crates that nearly immobilize them, enduring a cycle of repeated impregnation. These individual cages are approximately **2 feet wide x 7 feet long**—so small the animals *can't even turn around* or take more than a step forward or backward. Because they can't move, they suffer muscle and bone weakness that often leads to lameness. And since these inquisitive animals are denied any mental stimulation, many become neurotic, engaging in repetitive coping behaviors, such as constantly biting the bars in front of them. The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends that sow housing "allow sows to express normal patterns of behavior", while noting that "stall systems restrict normal behavioral expression."

## LEGISLATIVE AND CORPORATE PROGRESS

Nine U.S. states and the European Union have passed legislation to outlaw them. Smithfield Foods, the nation's largest pig producer, and Hormel Foods, maker of SPAM, have already announced that they will end the confinement of sows in gestation crates in their company-owned facilities. Additionally, major corporations such as McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, and more than 60 others have recently announced that they will end gestation crate use in their supply chains.

**Connecticut poll:** A May 2013 statewide survey by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research showed that an overwhelming majority -- **91% of Connecticut voters** -- support gestation crate ban legislation. An American Farm Bureau poll found that 95 percent of Americans believe farm animals should be well-cared for, and like most Americans, Connecticut residents want to see animals, including those raised for food, treated with decency.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

For additional questions, please contact: Annie Hornish,  
Connecticut State Director, The Humane Society of the United  
States, at (860) 966-5201 or [ahornish@humanesociety.org](mailto:ahornish@humanesociety.org).

# Connecticut Puppy Mill Law Facts



**The ASPCA®, The HSUS, CT Votes for Animals, and the CT Alliance for Humane Pet Shops** *urge support for an immediate ban on the sale of commercially-bred dogs in new pet shops, and a phase-out of their sale in the 16 pet shops that now sell them.*

- **Most pet store puppies come from puppy mills.** Puppy mills are large-scale commercial breeding operations where profits are given a higher priority than the well-being of the dogs.

- **Many cruel conditions found in puppy mills are legal under federal law.** Under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) - which outlines minimum standards of care for dogs and cats bred for commercial resale - it is legal for a dog to be kept in a stacked cage only 6 inches longer than the dog in each direction (think, beagle in a household dishwasher), with wire flooring that injures the dog's paws and legs, and through which waste sometimes falls on dogs in the cages below. Dogs are typically bred at every opportunity with little or no recovery time between litters and are generally killed when "spent" after a few years. Nothing in federal law prohibits such cruel treatment.

- **Even the weak federal law is not enforced, compounding the animal suffering in puppy mills.** According to the U.S. Office of Inspector General - which in 2010, audited the USDA's wholesale commercial breeder inspection process - USDA enforcement of even the minimal AWA standards is extremely poor. Inhumane conditions such as open and festering wounds, tick and insect infestations, and large accumulations of dog waste were pervasive in USDA-licensed and inspected commercial breeding facilities, but the USDA did little to curb this cruelty.

- **Connecticut pet shops obtain dogs from puppy mills that rival the facilities documented in the U.S. Inspector General's Audit for their cruel treatment of dogs.** In 2009, the Connecticut legislature passed a law requiring pet shops to

provide breeder and broker information to the state Department of Agriculture. This has made it possible to trace the dogs in Connecticut pet shops directly to puppy mills. USDA inspection reports on just a fraction of these facilities supplying dogs to Connecticut pet shops reveal a "parade of horrors:" untreated illness and injuries; significant waste accumulation, dirty food receptacles, and insect infestation; failure to provide water for long periods of time; poorly ventilated kennels, including excessively warm temperatures and ammonia-saturated air; too-small cages (in which the mother dogs remained 24/7 until "spent"); dogs with no bedding on wire floors; dogs living in almost total darkness.

- **In FY 2012, Connecticut's Animal Population Control Program (APCP) spent \$733,199 to reduce the dog and cat overpopulation problem.** Still, in FY 2012, 2,700 dogs and cats were euthanized in Connecticut's municipal shelters.

- **Many pet shops have built successful businesses based on the ethical principles of adoption and rescue.** This model has strong appeal to the public, who flock to pet shops like H3 Pet Supply in Stratford and Pet Playhouse in Southington - which partner with nonprofit rescue organizations to find homes for needy animals - precisely because of their humane practices.

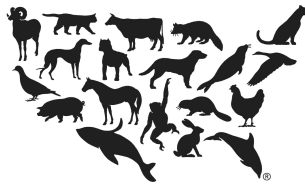
## Our reasonable proposal would:

**(1) prohibit the sale of commercially-bred dogs in new pet shops** *(also recommended by the bipartisan CT Task Force Concerning the Sale of Cats & Dogs at CT Pet Shops from Inhumane Origins), and*

**(2) phase out the sale of commercially-bred dogs in the 16 Connecticut pet shops that still sell them.**

Over 100 Connecticut pet shops do not sell dogs. The proposed phase-out would give the small fraction of pet shops that continue to sell commercially-bred dogs over 5 years - until July 1, 2019 - to transition to a humane model (i.e., the sale/adoption of dogs from public shelters and non-profit rescue groups).





THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**Oppose Sunday hunting, H.B. 5080** - AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS-- *Would allow bow and arrow hunting on Sundays.*

- STATUS: public hearing to be held on March 17, 2014

Talking points:

- **Only 1% of Connecticut residents hunt. Let the 99% enjoy a day of peace!** The overwhelming majority of people do not participate in hunting, and have only one day a week during hunting season when they can use the outdoors safely without the threat of bullets or arrows.
- **Sunday hunting will not resolve deer-related problems.** The problem with managing deer numbers through any kind of hunting is their numbers “bounce back” after hunting season. This is due to increased food resources available for the remaining deer, which results in does breeding at an earlier age and more fawns being born. This is a natural phenomenon—a biological adaptation to help wild animals recover from cyclic population losses. Hunting creates this bounce-back effect that in no way provides any long-term population “control”.
- **Bow hunting is one of the most inhumane forms of hunting because it results in unacceptably high crippling rates** – a high proportion of deer are wounded even when the most sophisticated forms of archery are used. Further, if the “blood trail” extends outside the area within which the bow hunter has permission to hunt, the injured deer will be left to suffer.
- **Wildlife watchers, hikers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, and horseback riders outnumber hunters in Connecticut by 29 to 1 and outspend them by 7 to 1**, contributing more than \$500 million dollars to the state's economy annually.
- **Sunday hunting will endanger public safety.** Arrows and bullets know no boundaries and pose public safety hazards to anyone who is within a large radius of the hunter. Further, domestic animals, such as dogs and horses, are sometimes mistaken for game animals. Thus, expanding recreational opportunities for hunters diminishes opportunities for hikers, horseback riders, bird watchers, and many others.
- **Hunting will not reduce (and may increase) Lyme disease risk.** The Black-legged tick has well over 100 hosts, including all mammals, many popular songbirds, and even lizards – thus the removal of one host isn’t enough to suppress the Lyme-disease causing tick. In addition, research indicates that hunting may put the public more at risk by creating disease “hot spots” -- Ticks questing for a large host are more likely to end up on people and dogs after deer numbers have been reduced. There’s a good reason why the CDC and health authorities don’t recommend hunting to control Lyme disease – because it doesn’t work.
- **A better approach:** There is no “magic bullet” for resolving deer problems. A better approach is for communities to adopt deer problem management programs that focus on site-specific solutions and new technologies, like PZP immunocontraception programs.

For additional questions, please contact: Annie Hornish, Connecticut State Director, The Humane Society of the United States, at (860) 966-5201 or [ahornish@humanesociety.org](mailto:ahornish@humanesociety.org).